

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb structural body, comprising:
~~obtained by assembling one or plural~~ an assembly of one or more pillar-shaped porous ceramic members, ~~each being made by arranging said assembly of ceramic members having~~
a plurality of through-holes arranged side by side in a longitudinal direction of the assembly, through
partitions separating one through-hole from another, and
plugging plugs at either one alternate ends of ~~these~~ the through-holes, ~~characterized in that wherein~~
an opening area at one end face of the honeycomb structural body is different from an opening area at the other end face thereof, and
the ceramic members ~~is made of~~ comprise a silicon-ceramic composite material ~~consisting of~~ including a ceramic constituent and a silicon constituent separated from the ceramic constituent.

Claim 2 (Original): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the honeycomb structural body is constructed by having a group of large volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively large a sum of opening areas at one end surfaces in a section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and a group of small volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively small a sum of opening areas at one end small in the other section.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb structural body, comprising:
~~obtained by assembling one or plural~~ an assembly of one or more pillar-shaped porous ceramic members, ~~each being made by arranging~~ said assembly of ceramic members having,
a plurality of through-holes for the formation of cells arranged side by side in a longitudinal direction of the assembly, through
partitions separating one through-hole from another, and
plugging plugs at either one alternate ends of these the through-holes, ~~characterized in that wherein~~

the porous ceramic members ~~is made by combining~~ comprise a group of large volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively large a sum of opening areas at one end surfaces in a section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and a group of small volume through-holes plugged so as to make relatively small a sum of opening areas at one end small in the other section, and

the porous ceramic members ~~is made of~~ comprise a silicon-ceramic composite material ~~consisting of~~ including a ceramic constituent and a silicon constituent separated from the ceramic constituent.

Claim 4 (Original): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the porous ceramic member has a relation that a distance between gravity centers of the large volume through-holes in the section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is equal to a distance between gravity centers of the small volume through-holes in the section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the large volume through-hole is made of through-holes having a hole size larger than that of the small volume through-hole.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the large volume through-hole constitutes a gas inflow side cell opened at an inlet side, and the small volume through-hole constitutes a gas outflow side cell opened at an outlet side.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the porous ceramic member has a porosity of 30-80%.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein a surface roughness of the partition in the porous ceramic member is 1.0-30.0 μm .

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein a thickness of the partition in the porous ceramic member is 0.15-0.45 mm.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein a half-width value of Si peak ($2\theta = \text{about } 28^\circ$) in an X-ray diffraction of the silicon-ceramic composite material is not more than 0.6° .

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the through-holes comprise two kinds of through-holes constituting a group of large

volume through-holes plugged at one end portions with a plugging material and a group of small volume through-holes plugged at the other end portions with a plugging material.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the through-hole is polygonal.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein a sectional shape of the through-hole is square and octagonal.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein a corner part of the section of the through-hole is round or chamfered form.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein an area ratio of section of the large volume through-hole perpendicular to the longitudinal direction to section of the small volume through-hole perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (large volume through-hole sectional area/small volume through-hole sectional area) is 1.01–9.00.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein an area ratio of section of the large volume through-hole perpendicular to the longitudinal direction to section of the small volume through-hole perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (large volume through-hole sectional area/small volume through-hole sectional area) is 1.01–6.00.

Claim 17 (Original): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the partition is provided on at least a part of a surface thereof with a coating layer of a catalyst.

Claim 18 (Original): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the honeycomb structural body of claim 1 is constructed by bundling a plurality of the porous ceramic members through the sealing material layer.

Claim 19 (Original): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the ceramic porous member includes silicon carbide.

Claim 20 (Original): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, which uses as a filter for purifying an exhaust gas including particular substance from a vehicle.

Claim 21 (New): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-ceramic composite material comprises said segregated silicon part interposed among the ceramic part.

Claim 22 (New): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 3, wherein the silicon-ceramic composite material comprises said segregated silicon part interposed among the ceramic part.